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ABSTRACT

This document presents one in a series of twenty-three case studies derived from in-depth interviews using a sampling of former participants in the Mountain-Plains program, a residential, family-based education program developed to improve the economic potential and lifestyle of selected student families in a six-state area. Each case study contains the following information about a specific student family: biographical data; participation in the educational and community programs; home, income, placement, and employment data; stated problems and/or satisfactions; summaries of the participants' personal and social development; individual ratings of the program; scripts of personal interviews; interviewer comments; and individual test scores and self-assessments. This document presents specific findings on Burton and Juanita Ducheneau, an American Indian couple with two children and serious personal problems. The follow-up study reports that although both individuals were able to find employment upon leaving the program and have greatly improved their economic status, they did not rate the Mountain-Plains experience as a positive influence on their lives. (Names in these studies have been changed.) Two other documents are included in the series: a report which examines work and income variables for the group (ED 110 610) and a report which summarizes group findings on personal and social development (CE 014 681). (BM)

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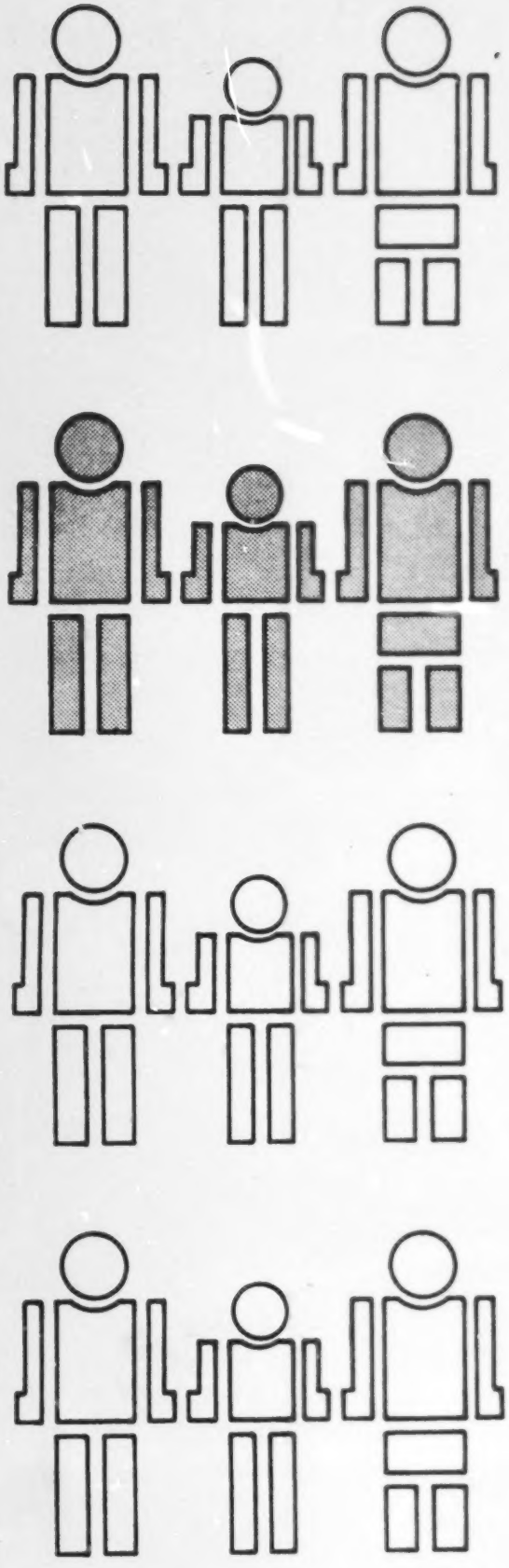

CASE STUDY REPORT #11

Burton and Juanita Ducheneau

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MOUNTAIN PLAINS EDUCATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INC.

CASE STUDY REPORT

BURTON AND JUANITA DUCHENEAU

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July, 1975

A Product of Research Services Division
David A. Coyle, Director

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PREFACE

Reports in this series are derived from in depth interviews using a stratified random sample of former Mountain-Plains students. Interviews were conducted from November, 1974 through January, 1975 by Mountain-Plains professional research staff. Case Study Report 1 examines Work and Income variables for the group. Case Study Reports 2 through 24 include specific findings on each family included in the sampling. Case Study Report 25 summarizes group findings on personal and social development. A summary of the research design for the Case Study Reports is documented in: Coyle, David A.; Conrad, Rowan W.; and Myers, Douglas D. In Depth Case Study of Exited Families: A Summary of the Research Design for Phase 1 Preliminary Effects Study. Glasgow, Montana: Mountain-Plains Press, 1974. Specific documentation for the instruments utilized in the study are included in either Case Study Report 1 or Case Study Report 25. All names in these studies have been changed.

Michael C. Fenenbock
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CASE STUDY REPORT

BURTON AND JUANITA DUCHENEAU

BACKGROUND

Burt and Juanita Ducheneau are natives of Poplar, Montana and are of American Indian heritage. In April, 1969, they left the Sioux reservation to "seek their fortune" in the state of Washington where Burt worked as a track laborer for the Great Northern Railroad from May through December. For unspecified reasons, Burt and Juanita left Washington for California where Burt trained as a welder and subsequently worked from August to October, 1970. Reports are that illness in the Ducheneau family resulted in their returning to the reservation at that time. For three years prior to attending Mountain-Plains, Burt was unemployed--the family subsisting on welfare and tribal benefits.

Prior to entering Mountain-Plains, Burt and Juanita had been living with their two children, Burt Jr. and Darryl--ages 2 and 3--plus assorted relatives, in a five room house in Poplar. The house was cramped, uncomfortable, and contributed to frequent quarrels and disputes.

Burt and Juanita are both in their mid-twenties. Aside from the welding training, Burt has only an eighth grade education, and recalls disliking school. He attended through the eighth grade "because it was required" and he took welding training "because there were jobs available." Although the Ducheneau's intake file lists family illness as a reason for being unemployed, it emerged over the course of the interview that the depressed nature of the reservation

economy, Burt's lack of vocational skills (apart from welding), and the trauma of filling out application forms were largely the causes of his unemployment.

Juanita had completed a GED certificate, and while in California worked a few months in an off-press print shop but says she disliked it. At entry Juanita reported she would like to be a PBX operator.

As mentioned, Burt and Juanita had not been employed for some years, and were subsisting on tribal and welfare benefits plus some unemployment. During this time, the Ducheneau's reportedly spent most of their time on card parties and drinking. It was a period of conflict, both with each other, and with the in-laws they lived with.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Problems observed while Burt was in the program included self-concept, self-confidence, self-acceptance, self-control, responsibility, alcohol abuse, social contact, intimacy, and marital harmony. Juanita's major problems were reported to be drinking and "nagging" (criticizing) Burt.

Burt's low self-concept and low self-confidence was revealed through a fear of communication with strangers, particularly non-Indian strangers. Indeed, Burt allowed his wife to carry the burden of conversation, raising concerns, and making requests. As he did not believe he could "achieve" he was unable to set realistic goals. He wanted to train in carpentry but believed he would never be employed as a carpenter.

Unable to accept himself in the Mountain-Plains environment, Burt disliked being a student and wanted to be employed in order that he could be a better provider for his family. He appeared to be unaware of his strengths, although his weaknesses were well known to him (mainly because his wife pointed them out). Juanita interpreted Burt's inability to earn a living as weakness and was very impatient for him to become employed.

Burt's inability to control his actions and tendencies was illustrated through excessive drinking, violent behavior when drinking, and a casual attitude toward attending classes. His absences usually occurred after a long weekend spent home on the reservation. Additionally, Burt went on occasional drinking binges. When these extended parties occurred, he lost all track of time and of his responsibilities regarding class attendance. Consequently, the family was frequently behind on bills and at times lacked sufficient funds for groceries as a result of their irresponsible drinking behavior.

Burt's low personal responsibility was evidenced through his blaming the program when he received a "short check" for class time missed. He felt that "circumstances" were to blame for his situation in life rather than his own actions. Although shy and lacking confidence, Burt's social contact skills were adequately developed to insure a successful completion of the program. Indeed, Burt impeded his own progress in the program by his consistant failure to maintain an acceptable attendance record.

Intimacy and marital harmony were lacking in the Ducheneau marriage. Most of their conflicts occurred when drinking. When sober, both Ducheneaus were responsible parents and considerate marriage partners.

Juanita was the stronger personality and often overshadowed Burt--a strong factor in Burt's self-concept/confidence problems, particularly as it is contrary to the personality pattern among Mountain-Plains Indian families in general.

HOME AND INCOME

After leaving Mountain-Plains the Ducheneau's returned to the state of Washington where they expected to find a job. Following three months of unsuccessful searching they returned to Poplar and began receiving general assistance and tribal benefits. Because the Ducheneau's left the six state area, Mountain-Plains did not assist them in any way with their employment search. On their return to the reservation, Burt began applying for all jobs in which he thought he might have an interest. Within two months he had secured a job as custodian at Poplar High School. He reported the beginning salary at $641 per month with a take home of $504. Nine months later Burt and Juanita took over the laundry concession at the high school which has added another $106 to their paycheck. At this time Juanita went to work for the grade school three hours a day as a lunch room aide. Juanita is paid $150 a month making a total recent income increase of $260 with Burt due for an annual increase in salary in the near future.

The Ducheneau's currently live in a new, well constructed but modest, three bedroom home built by the tribal housing authority. They pay $55 a month for rent and assume that someone else subsidizes the remainder but have no idea who, where, or how much. The $55 includes utility cost (which indicates that there is an extensive subsidy--$55 will not pay heat in the

winter in this region). The Ducheneau's report having paid off most of their debts with only some $500 remaining. They still owe $99 on a stereo--to be paid off completely with the next paycheck. They are considering going into debt again to buy a new or newer car and they are having a telephone installed this month.

The Ducheneau's do not subscribe to a newspaper but say they purchase the local paper every week when it comes out and Burt subscribes to Popular Mechanics magazine. They feel they have no current health service needs (as tribal members the service is provided for them). Burt and Juanita feel they have made great strides in their lives since Mountain-Plains, rating themselves prior to Mountain-Plains at level 2 or 3 and currently at level 7 on a scale from 0 to 9. Both are optimistic about the future. (See Table 2.)

EMPLOYMENT

As mentioned, Burt works as a custodian for the high school and Juanita works part time as a kitchen aide in the grade school. Burt enjoys his work, while Juanita remains undecided in most areas. Objective test results place Burt above the norm on job motivation and Juanita at the norm. Burt scores at the norm on work alienation and Juanita above the norm. (See Figure 3.) Other test results are not entirely consistent with statements about working situations by either Burt or Juanita. Satisfaction ratings were not high. On the JDI Burt rates work at the 40th percentile, pay at the 35th, promotion at the 50th, supervision at the 45th, and co-workers at the 20th percentile. (See Figure 1.) Juanita rates work at the 30th percentile, pay at the 65th,

promotion at the 68th, supervision at the 15th and co-workers at the 65th percentile. In rating housework, Juanita scored at the 92nd percentile versus women employed "on a job." (See Figure 2.) This is one of the highest satisfaction scores on housework recorded by any woman in the follow-up study (the mean score rating at approximately the 30th percentile over all cases included).

Burt's supervisor rated his overall performance at the 93rd percentile, specific work performance at the 99th, conformance at the 90th, dependability at the 99th and personal adjustment at the 75th percentile. (See Figure 1.) Juanita's supervisor rated her performance at the 20th percentile, specific work performance at the 25th, conformance at the 10th, dependability at the 25th and personal adjustment at the 50th percentile. (See Figure 2.) However, Juanita's supervisor reports she has been with them such a short while that she could not be certain of the ratings. (Juanita thus was mostly rated down the middle of the scales which may have artificially depressed the actual rating.) However, in the interview discussions it was clear that her supervisor was not pleased with certain aspects of Juanita's work which she alluded to as "problems of being new". It seems that Juanita is too interested in the children and not rigorous enough in enforcing the supervisor's "system".

When asked to respond to the general question what do you think of your job Burt replied, "I like it." He had no other comments. Juanita said, "I don't, it's just a job." When asked what they liked about their jobs, Burt said he liked his job because "It's inside and I don't have to get cold or wet."

Juanita said she liked the people she worked with on the job. Burt responded that he too liked the people he worked with, and the pay. Juanita said she liked the fact that, "It's only three hours (a day) and that gives me time (at home)."

Burt did not like his job hours; he works from 3:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He says he would rather work a regular shift. Burt also did not like "emptying trash or bad kids"; explaining that "bad kids" were those who 'mess up the building (vandalism)".

Juanita reported disliking her supervisor. Juanita says she "felt bad" when her co-workers did not show up (which they did not do half of the time) because this made entirely too many children to be responsible for in the lunch room--but there has been no real difficulty that she felt she could not cope with. Burt says he feels "bad" when people "mess" up the building "like spitting on the walls and things that aren't necessary". He reports feeling particularly good when "I'm through cleaning and I can see how nice it looks."

Juanita's supervisor (the school principal) declared that Juanita's work was average but that she had the potential to improve. She reports Juanita's attendance as average, and that she had a good attitude, "she seems to like the work and is interested. She is willing to learn." The supervisor indicated that Juanita gets along with fellow workers "average" and with supervisors "real good." Under general comments she added, "Juanita is willing, wants to learn, but is new and is not yet fully proficient. Juanita has a genuine service desire."

Burt's supervisor (the head school custodian) offered no general comments about Burt's work "just that he does good work--definitely above average." He reports the quality of Burt's work as "good," as is his attendance, and his attitude and relations with fellow workers and supervisors. (The supervisor was an older man, near retirement age, very friendly and very given to one word responses--not exactly the chatty type. The fact that someone was interviewing him seemed to make him feel important and he regarded the interviewer as very important and seemed to frighten himself into being shy.)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Leisure activities include weekend trips to see friends or relatives or "going up into Canada." Juanita likes to go out and play bingo and the family enjoys fishing and picnics. Except for Juanita's bingo, all family activities are cooperative.

Previous to Mountain-Plains, the Ducheneau's had no car and, consequently, did no traveling. Their major entertainment was playing cards with friends; which they no longer do since their return from Mountain-Plains as their friends, the Ducheneaus report, drink excessively.

At Mountain-Plains the Ducheneau's were very active in the Indian club and Burt played on a basketball team. They feel no responsibility toward their community saying "things don't make any difference." Nevertheless they report feeling a responsibility to vote.

On tests of social perception Burt scores above the norm on powerlessness and Juanita scores at the norm. On anomie, both score above the norm but

Juanita more above than Burt. (See Figure 3.) This indicates that Burt has less than the usual feeling that he can influence his life and environment and that both feel alienated from (as opposed to integrated into) their social field. This latter perception was validated as both Burt and Juanita reported that in the face of things like constant invitations from friends to go drinking, and lacking their social circle, they could not participate in the community, and consequently withdrew into the nuclear family with contacts to the extended families. They reported that the prevailing ethic among young adults on the reservation was alcohol and irresponsibility, whereas they had "tried that route," and found it unsatisfying. They now feel they have a "better way" and are trying to follow it (in spite of the lack of reinforcement from the general social environment.)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Burt does not rate himself as changed on any of the personal or work characteristics he was requested to rate. Juanita, on the other hand, feels that since entering Mountain-Plains she has lost some self-confidence, is not as ambitious as she once was and in many ways not as dependable. However, she says, currently she more readily accepts responsibility for tasks and is more cooperative with others than she was prior to attending Mountain-Plains. (The interviewer had known the Ducheneau's during their program participation. It is his opinion that Juanita's decreased self-confidence is a virtue in that she was not only confident but often arrogant--at least with Burt--in the past.) Burt, although he does not rate himself so, is observedly more confident, more outgoing and has better social contact skills. He also holds his

own with Juanita and she no longer appears to dominate him as she had in the past. It should be noted that the Ducheneau's did not rate themselves at any time as unsatisfactory on any trait, indicating either a lack of insight or an unwillingness to commit themselves or admit various weaknesses.

Although there were no formal tests of self-concept at the time the Duchneau's entered the program, both were observed to have problems in this area--particularly Burt. Burt's total self-concept score is now at the norm and Juanita's a half standard deviation above norm. Only on physical self-concept and behavioral self-concept does Juanita score below the norm. She scores quite high on self-satisfaction, personal self-concept, family self-concept and moral ethical self-concept. (See Figure 4.)

Burt's profile is very difficult to interpret. He has a very low self-criticism scores, again pointing out a lack of perception into his own faults, and/or his unwillingness to admit these and/or his needs to cover these over for outsiders (fake good). Although the absolute levels of Burt's self-concept scores are in doubt, the relative scale interpretation should be valid. Burt's highest self-concept points are his behavior (believes actions are appropriate) and his personal self-concept (feelings of worth as a person). His two lowest areas are identity and moral ethical self-concept(s).

The low self-criticism score is consistent with program reports which indicated that Burt did not accept personal responsibility, but rather blamed his problems on "circumstances." It was noted in the interview however, that Burt was much more willing to accept responsibility than at the time the

interviewer had known him and program reports indicate that he had made some small progress in this area while in the program. (It should be noted that Burt did not complete the Mountain-Plains Program--using his old excuse of "family medical" to leave early and return to Poplar where his wife had gone to deliver their third child.)

Burt says he feels he has had mostly "good breaks" in life. For "good breaks" he reports his good job and his "getting out of debt." Juanita agrees. When asked about "bad breaks," the Ducheneau's report "nothing really bad." They observed that after Mountain-Plains, they had a car that went "to pot" and had to borrow money for a new car, but "we are paying that off and may get a newer car, maybe even a new car."

The family reports taking great satisfaction in having a place of their own and no longer having to live with relatives. "Not only that, but it's a real nice place too, and we may be able to buy it." (A local program is being established through which families can purchase rental homes and the Ducheneau's are very excited about this prospect.) Although they reported no community involvement, the Ducheneau's planned to attend a community meeting relative to the purchase of the home the following week. They say they are also satisfied that "we have good jobs and a real income for the first time in our life." When questioned about other satisfactions, they responded "just generally everything, family, kids, new stereo." When asked what was negative in their lives, they replied they did not like having any debts and will be glad when they are paid off. The Ducheneau's said they might like to have some new furniture and a color TV. Juanita reports disliking her job as well.

Both report feelings of frustration at having to postpone the "luxuries" they want because of unexpected expenses that continue to arise. (In the middle of the night following the first interview session, Burt's brother arrived from the West Coast to join the household. This is certain to provide another unexpected expense as the brother is of high school age and will be depending on them for support.)

Both Burt and Juanita believe that they can influence their future as "we have confidence now. We have dollar power and we now know how to use credit. We're earning now and won't get into debt anymore."

RATING THE MOUNTAIN-PLAINS PROGRAM

Burt rates Mountain-Plains as a neutral influence in his life and Juanita rates it as a negative influence in hers. However, when asked to rate individual aspects of Mountain-Plains in terms of how helpful they were, all of the aspects in which they participated were rated as of much or some value with the exception of recreation and home management.

Among the various program aspects of Mountain-Plains, Burt and Juanita listed home management as "least useful." Juanita also gave recreation a "least useful" tag, while Burt rated Counseling "least useful."[1]

The Ducheneau's report that home management was a "bunch of baloney," that they did not like it, and successfully managed to avoid it. Recreation,

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[1]Curious as Burt gave Counseling a "some" rating on the checklist but home management was a "none." Perhaps home management made such a small impression that without the list it wasn't considered.

which they both rated as of little value, (and Juanita as the least valuable thing at Mountain-Plains) was rated on the basis of a now defunct leisure skills class where they disliked the material in general and the instructor in particular. Among the one or two things rated most useful, both Burt and Juanita list job training whereas Burt included Career Guidance and Juanita work experience. Burt rated job training highly as, he said, it gave him some background to use when applying for the custodian job he now holds. Juanita simply feels that her training might be of value some day. It seems the part of Career Guidance that Burt particularly liked was "world of work"--e.g., the job application process. Indeed, previous to Mountain-Plains, Burt cites not understanding how to fill out job applications as one of his main reasons for being unemployed. He dreaded applications so much that he tended not to seek jobs where one would be required to fill out written applications!

Juanita was not specific about work experience's advantages saying, that it was, "overall very good. You could see people actually doing jobs." Burt recalled liking carpentry training in particular, not only because it helped him get his job, but because he liked knowing how to use tools and how to build things. "I can build things for around the house." (He showed the interviewer the table he built and reported he had been building things for his father-in-law.) When asked to elaborate further on the least useful parts of the program, Burt replied that he could not really say why he thought Counseling was not useful. However, in a later section of the interview, Burt revealed a dislike for the counselor confronting him with such things as

his absence behavior. Burt expected that a counselor was one who would support him and help him "get things from the rest of the school." This may have been reinforced in that while the school is majority culture dominated, his counselor was an Indian. He may have regarded this as a specific kind of racial disloyalty (e.g., supporting majority culture institutional expectations for such things as attendance in class.)

Both Burt and Juanita felt that the job skills they learned were adequate. (However, neither Burt or Juanita have worked in the area of their job training so there is no basis for reality testing).

When asked for suggestions for the improvement of skill training areas, Burt responded that in carpentry there should be some kind of lockable work station because "some people come along and mess up your things." He also reported that tests in this area were very bad. Juanita responded that in business and office the only suggestion she would offer would be to get more staff. Both Burt and Juanita feel that their math has been adequate to their jobs as have their English skills.

When asked if they would change occupational choices if given the chance, Juanita said she would not change, "I like what I had." Burt, on the other hand, said that if he was at Mountain-Plains now he would take mechanics so he would "know how to fix cars." However, he would not necessarily intend to work as a mechanic, but rather wanted the skill for his own use. Burt said he would still weld if he had his choice of jobs.

When asked for suggestions for Career Guidance, Burt and Juanita felt that "showing people more real jobs. That is, actually letting people see people

working on jobs," would be helpful. Burt also revealed he did not understand the reasons for repeated changes in his projected completion date. He did not know why these changes were made and did not know why "they" were making them. The instructional area (building trades), he declared, said he was done but his guidance counselor (then in charge of exit validation) said he was not done. Questioning staff, it appears that the situation was explained to Burt very clearly on a number of occasions, but that he chose to ignore it. (The reasons were basically that to complete Mountain-Plains, a validation in math,[2] English, Counseling and the core curriculum, etc., is required, as well as validation in occupational training.) Burt, however, was unwilling to credit this point.

When asked for suggestions for Counseling, Juanita had little to say, other than she enjoyed it and felt she had derived great benefit from it. Burt reported his main complaint as not understanding the purpose of Counseling. This statement is consistent with his counselor's report which indicated that Burt thought the purpose of a counselor was to get things for you--things you might not ordinarily be entitled to. Burt and Juanita agreed that counselors needed "more do and less talk about." Their final suggestion was that certain people should not be allowed to dominate discussions in group counseling.

In discussing the Family Core Curriculum, the Ducheneau's related that there had been no change in health status of the family, that they have always been

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[2]Burt revealed that math was a particular problem for him.

very healthy, and, except for prenatal checks and necessary physicals, they have not required major medical attention. Both are confident dealing with health problems, but report always having been so.

The Duchneau's report now being able to make ends meet financially, and say this is definitely a change--they were unable to do so before Mountain-Plains. The Ducheneau's report having always been able to reach an agreement on money spending. Likewise they say that they have had no problem--either before or after Mountain-Plains--with the children. (The interviewer's observation of the parent-child interaction indicates that at least at the present time, the Ducheneau's do have an excellent relationship with their children.) Both report they understand their children and say they always have.

The Ducheneau's were asked to respond in general terms with ideas, suggestions and comments about Mountain-Plains. They were also asked to make specific comments in regard to Indian students. Mountain-Plains, they said, needed more Indians--the isolation from the Indian environment being very frightening. "It was not so bad for us because we lived away from the family on the West Coast." (However, both report isolation as a source of tension for them and that it was absolutely debilitating to many of the Indian families that came straight from the reservation.)

Burt said he thought that Counseling should be optional and not be required. The Ducheneaus suggested a peer orientation for Indians where current Indian students would spend time talking to newly arrived Indian students, explaining the circumstances and problems they would confront. Burt

believed that, particularly with regard to drinking, this approach could help Indian students.

Burt declared drinking and motivation to be big problems, "A lot of people come and don't want to accomplish anything." Juanita said that "a lot of Indians in Mountian-Plains got into a lot of trouble with drinking." They again recommended a peer orientation saying "It wouldn't have to be Indian students--it might even be better if it were an Indian staff member." Burt particularly recommended his counselor as someone who might be able to do this effectively. He said "with Indians at Mountain-Plains the start is very important." Both felt that Indian students should be "hit hard" during the first days and weeks by Indian staff and/or Indian students--preferably both.

Apart from Indian concerns, Juanita expressed no general comments about Mountain-Plains. Burt said he needed more help in math. In fact he revealed his greatest problem at Mountain-Plains had been trying to complete math. Inability to meet the math requirements had been the major obstacle in his program completion. Burt said "It was hard to get the teacher's attention; the teachers favor people who already know math and work with them. People like me who have trouble can't get attention." (This criticism may be perceptual in that instructors report being equally frustrated with Burt as he would not ask questions. Clearly, Burt was unwilling to enter into the kind of hand waving and pestering competition for teacher's attention that characterizes majority culture students. As a consequence, Burt seemed to become frustrated with the teachers for not responding to his modest

overtures and/or for not knowing he had questions simply because he was not busily engaged. The teachers became frustrated with Burt because he would not make his needs for attention and assistance known in ways that they could interpret.)[3]

FEMALE INTERVIEW

Juanita reports being happy with herself physically, with the way she looks and the way she feels. She says she has complete confidence in her ability to do such home care tasks as budgeting, cooking, nutrition, and sewing. She experiences occasional time pressure but can usually get things done and have some time for herself. She declares that Burt helps her around the house. Juanita commented that she enjoyed occupational preparation at Mountain-Plains and the only change she would make now would be to take a more advanced step on the career ladder, "I wouldn't just stop on clerk and receptionist but I'd learn typing too." When doing things just for herself, Juanita says, she sometimes (but not usually) feels guilty. Since Mountain-Plains, she reaches out more and takes more initiative than previously. Happy in her role as a woman, Juanita says she would not rather be a man. She does not believe that her husband "has it easier." Juanita likes herself and says if she were someone else, she would want herself for a friend because "I'm a good mother and a good cook. I'm friendly, cheerful and easy to get along with."

She says Burt discusses his job with her, talks over job problems, and she is aware of what he does. She declares they make major decisions together

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[3]This appears to be a "cultural gap" problem.

and that both take a hand in disciplining the children. They likewise talk about plans and dreams for the children. Juanita surmised that both have changed since their Mountian-Plains participation, "Burt is more determined and more directed. We're not just drifting around like we used to." She says problems they deal with now are much different than those they dealt with before Mountain-Plains--before they had no jobs, no money, and had to live with relatives, now they have jobs, money, and a house of their own. (However, she remarked, she cannot see where Mountain-Plains had any effect on this!)

INTERVIEWER COMMENTS

Juanita completed the Mountain-Plains Program very quickly due to a combination of being very bright and choosing to stop at one of the lowest possible rungs on the career ladder in her area. This allowed her a great deal of free time which, she reports, hung heavy on her hands. (This was observed to be the case.) Juanita often spent time in the lounge next door to the interviewer's office doing beadwork, chattering with the secretary or anyone else who came by in a mood to be conversational. Her outgoing nature was in stark contrast to Burt's shy and reserved demeanor, and often resulted in her speaking for him in social situations. (In fact, despite frequent encounters during the program, the interviewer cannot remember Burt ever giving more than one or two word greetings or responses.)

When the interviewer arrived at the Ducheneau's home, still slightly dazed from his last six blocks of travel over axle breaking city streets which more closely resembled an obstacle course, Juanita was engaged in her usual

beadwork. Surprisingly she appeared somewhat shy with the interviewer, who was even more surprised when Burt arrived to notice that he now spoke in full sentences.

Burt has obviously gained a great deal of self-confidence and lost a great deal of shyness, at least in regard to conversation with the interviewer. (How much of this may have been due to the fact that the interviewer was now in Burt's home, on Burt's reservation, and how much due to personality change cannot be stated with certainty. However, in the interview with Juanita in Burt's absence, she verified that Burt had changed and that he was more determined and more directed.)

The Ducheneau home is simple but clean and neatly kept. The house is new (as were all of the houses in the reservation housing project where the Ducheneau's live). It seems, though, there was no money in the housing project allocation for streets--although very nice curb and gutter concrete work marks the boundaries where the street would normally be. Only the fact of frequent vehicle travel and an absence of grass differentiate the streets of the area from the surrounding prairie.

The streets were one more depressing element in a very depressing environment. This was the interviewer's first experience in a reservation town, and it was most disheartening. Bars were more prominent than business, and new construction largely limited to the housing project. The happy smiling Indians seen dancing on the television sets of the nation were not in evidence. Those noted on the street walked with sober faces and colorless clothing or rode about in dented overage automobiles. Among the businesses,

only the bar, grocery stores, and laundramat seem to be doing what could be called a booming business. Older Indians were much worried by a move to terminate the reservation and gave full credit to the rumor that senior tribal council officers had been paid a gigantic bribe to push for termination in order to benefit white land interests. Younger Indians--especially those in their teens and early twenties--along with tribal members no longer living on the reservation, were supposedly supporting this move as it would mean approximately $20,000 per person in "payoff" money. The Ducheneau's were concerned, saying "off reservation" and "young" Indians could outvote those residing on the reservation should it ever come to an election. "The young people," the Ducheneau's said, "have no idea that in one year the $20,000 will be gone and they'll have nothing. The people off the reservation think only of themselves, ignore their families (extended), and don't think about what termination would mean to the ones they left behind."

It is of some concern that the one thing the Ducheneaus seem to really enjoy in their current external environment is the income produced by their jobs. They feel alienated from, and depressed by, their young adult peers on the reservation, whose main activity, they claim, is drinking. Burt in particular likes his job only because of the money it pays, and because he does not have to go out in the winter. The one sustaining element for the Ducheneau's seems to be the extent to which they have learned to value each other and their children--the nuclear family unit. When the interviewer arrived for the second interview session and found Burt's brother in the home, he expected to note some hostility from the Ducheneaus--because of

the financial drain the brother would put on them. The interviewer was surprised to discover that Juanita did not seem the least hostile and Burt appeared proud that his brother had come and that Burt would be able to take care of him. (In fact, it was the only time the interviewer observed Burt showing real overt emotion about anything.)

It is hard to predict what the Ducheneau's long range future will be. The overall social environment places pressure on the Ducheneaus to do such things as seek recreation through drinking bouts with other young adults in the community. On the other hand, this behavior is not consistent with the Ducheneau's current value system. Whether the Ducheneau's will eventually succumb to the oppressive environment of the reservation town, continue on their present course, or make an overt attempt to change the situation in at least a part of the community, cannot be predicted.

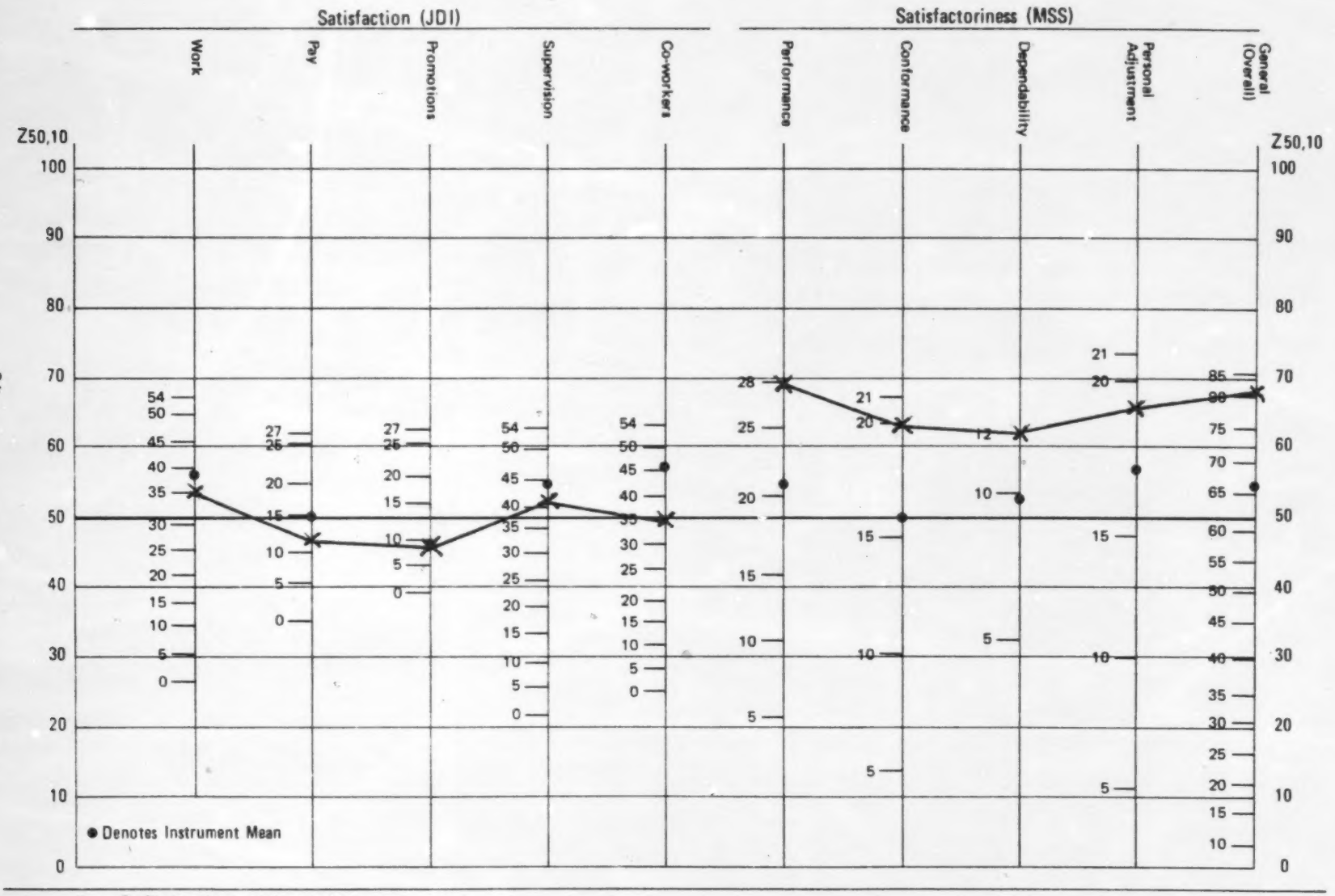
It appears that Mountain-Plains has been successful with the Ducheneaus in several areas. For instance, Burt has increased (and Juanita is more functional) as regards self-confidence. This is particularly true of Burt in filling out job applications--he indicates that he secured his job because he went down and filled out applications for every job that came along until he finally got one. This is in marked contrast to Burt's pre-Mountain-Plains behavior.

The Ducheneau's also reported utilizing consumer skills learned at Mountain-Plains. The Ducheneau's counseling extensively focused on development of the marital relationship and on dealing with drinking behavior, and the current

greatest strength of the Ducheneau family is noted to be in the marital relationship and in their ability to avoid the drinking trap.

Figure 1

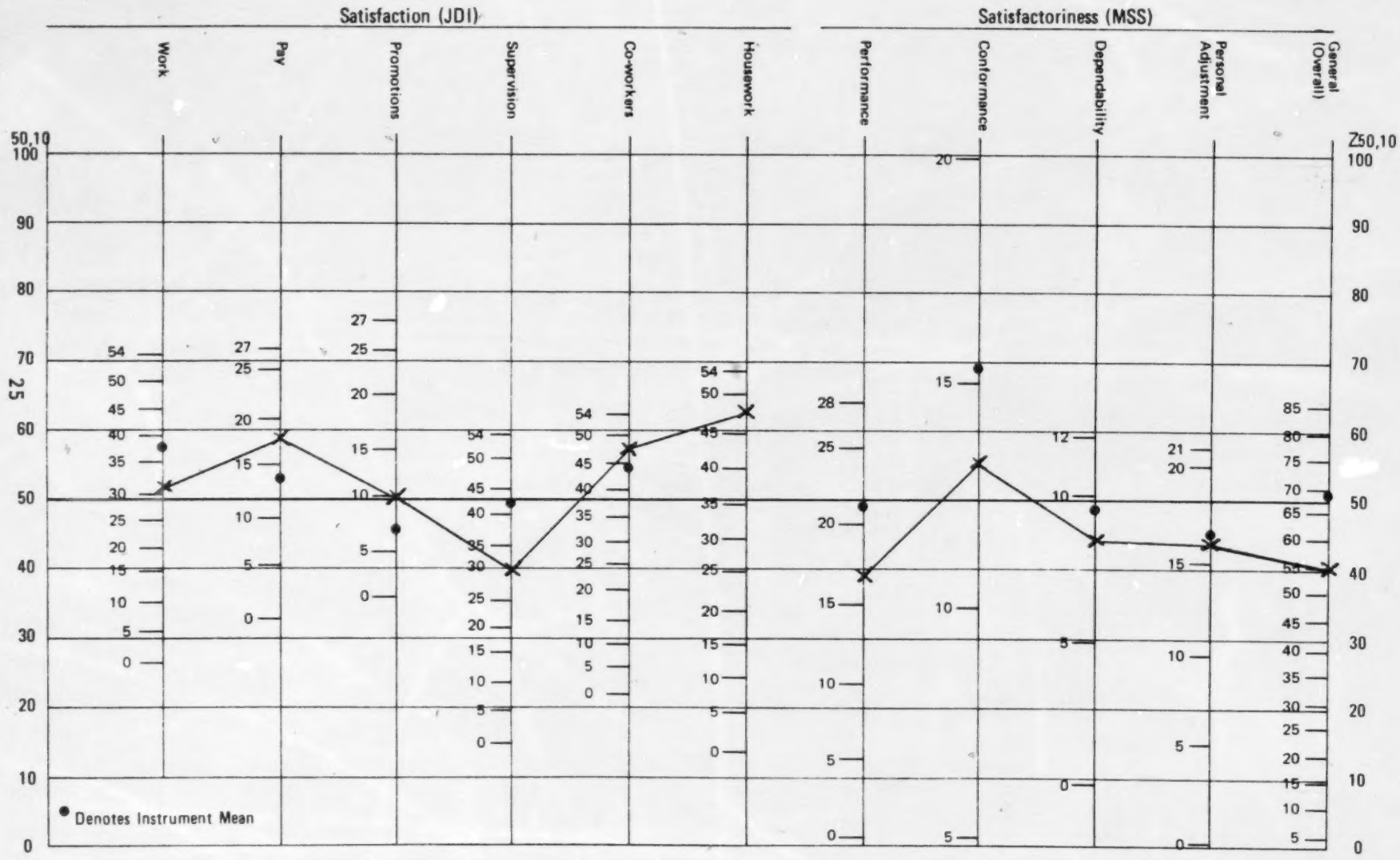
SATISFACTION AND SATISFACTORINESS – MALE



Note: Profile based on entering student scores.

Figure 2

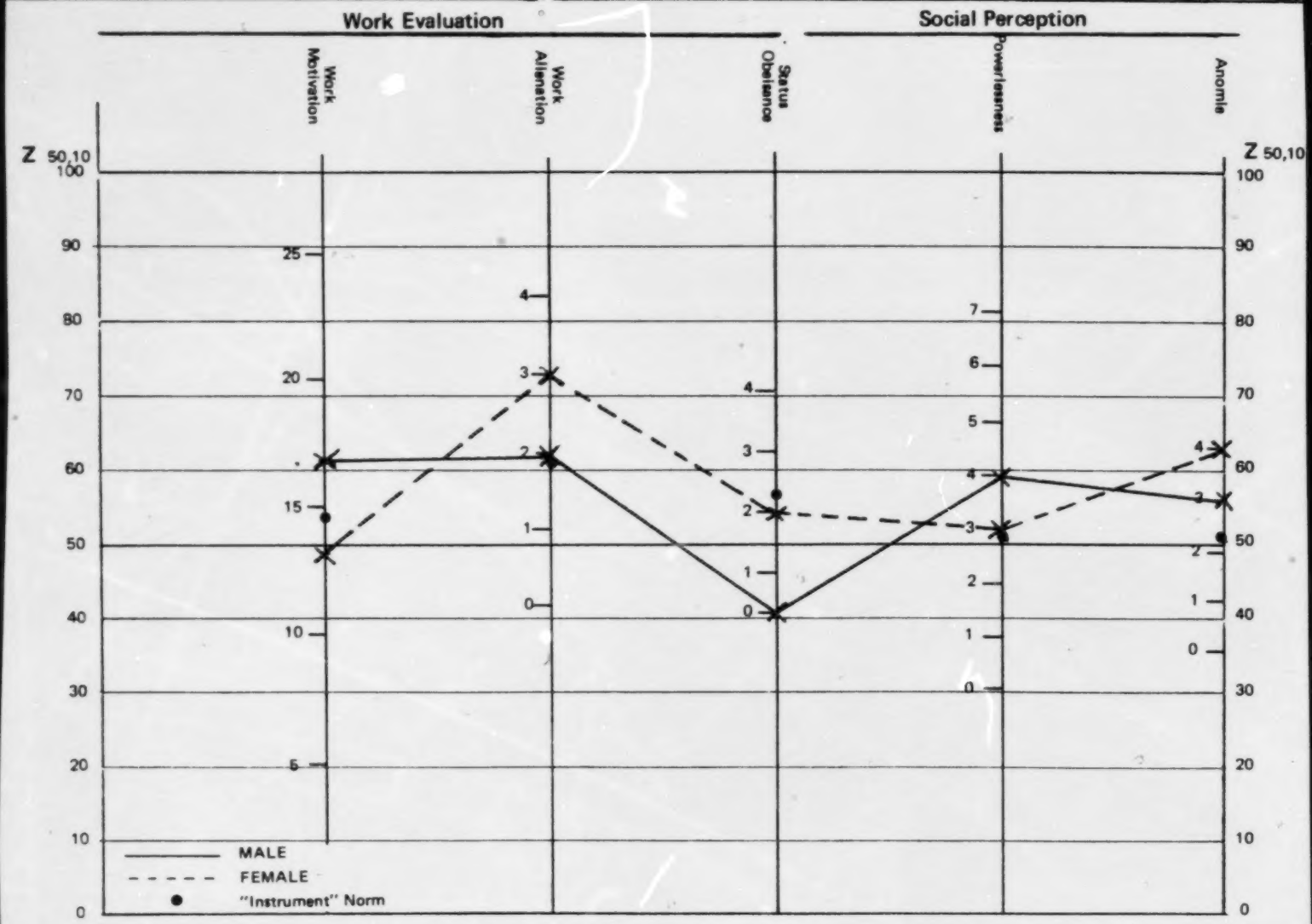
SATISFACTION AND SATISFACTORINESS – FEMALE



Note: Profile based on entering student norms except "Housework" which is based on instrument norm for employment.

Figure 3

MOTIVATION AND ALIENATION

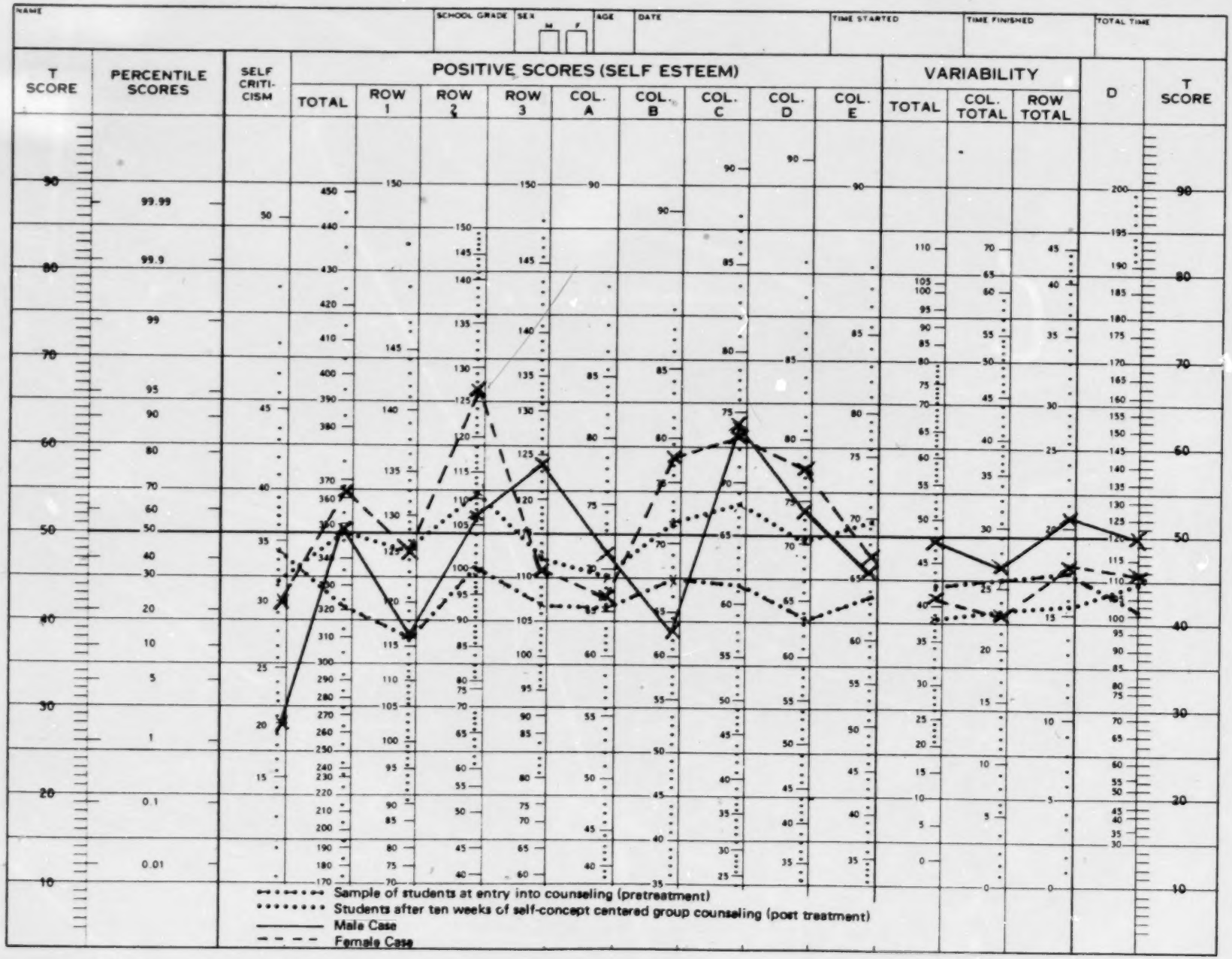


Note: Profile derived from entering student data.

Tennessee Self Concept Scale - Figure 4

PROFILE SHEET

Counseling Form



Note: This is the standard profile sheet for the TSCS.

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Male					Female			
High		Low			Low		High	
Much	Some	Little	None		None	Little	Some	Much
●				Job Training				●
	●			Math	NA			
●				English				●
●				Career Guidance				●
			NA	Work Experience				●
	●			Counseling			●	
●				Consumer Education			●	
			NA	Community Development	NA			
		●		Recreation		●		
	●			Health				●
			NA	Home Management	NA			
	●			Early Childhood			●	

FIGURE 5

UTILITY RATING OF MOUNTAIN-PLAINS PROGRAM ELEMENTS

TABLE 1

SELF RATING OF PERSONAL AND WORK TRAIT CHANGES

Male		Female	
Improved	Regressed	Improved	Regressed
		Accepts Responsibility (tasks)	Self-Confidence
		Cooperation	Dependability/ Reliability
			Ambition

TABLE 2

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. "Rate Mountain-Plains as an influence in your life."

	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative
Male			o		
Female				x	

2. "Knowing what you know now, would you have chosen Mountain-Plains?"

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Don't Know	Probably No	Definitely No
Male			o		
Female			x		

3. "What is your rating for your current life in general?"

	Completely Satisfied	Well Satisfied	Neither Extreme	A Little Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Male		o			
Female		x			

4. "Rate your success:

		Completely Successful 9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Completely Unsuccessful 0
The year before M-P."	Male								o		
	Female							x			
Now."	Male			o							
	Female			x							
Five years from now."	Male	o									
	Female	x									